

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01

CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ITC-01

L-03 /076 W

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P R 231556Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8615
INFO RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 736
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT EEC NATO OECD NL UR US

SUBJECT: FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION ANNOUNCES US-USSR
"MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT"

REF: A) STATE 179079 (NOTAL) B) THE HAGUE 3961 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING APPEARANCE IN DUTCH PRESS JULY 22 OF STORY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION DIRGEN FOR SHIPPING JANSSEN, E/C COUNSELOR PROVIDED JANSSEN, (AND SEPARATELY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRANSPORTATION ADVISOR NIEUWENHUIJSEN) WITH PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN STATE REFTEL. BOTH WERE GRATEFUL FOR REASSURING GUIDANCE. JANSSEN CONFIRMED THAT PRESS STORY AND EDITORIAL (FOR TEXTS SEE PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4) WERE BASED ON INTERVIEW GRANTED BY HIM LATE AFTERNOON OF JULY 21 UPON REQUEST FOLLOWING MEETING EARLIER THAT MORNING WITH FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION CHAIRMAN KARL E. BAKKE. BOTH JANSSEN AND NIEUWENHUIJSEN SAID GON IS FULLY CONVINCED THAT WESTERN SHIPPING NATIONS TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE SHOULD ACT JOINTLY IN DEALING WITH ALL ASPECTS (COMMERCIAL, STRATEGIC, AND POLITICAL) OF SOVIET AND EAST BLOC THREAT TO WESTERN SHIPPING. END SUMMARY.

2. JANSSEN SAID PURPOSE OF HIS ACCEPTING TWO-YEAR CHAIRMANSHIP OF OECD MARITIME COMMITTEE IS TO ASSURE JOINT ACTION OF NON-EAST BLOC MARITIME POWERS AGAINST MENACE OF GROWING SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN MERCHANT FLEETS. HE BELIEVES OECD IS GOOD PLACE TO ACHIEVE THIS EVEN WITH YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION. HE ADDED THAT HE AND GON WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO TAKE UP THESE ISSUES IN SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA AS NATO AND EC-US CONSULTATIONS AS WELL AS INFORMALLY WITH USG AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED WESTERN SHIPPING COUNTRIES.

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3. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE APPEARING
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IN JULY 22 ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD (INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY) BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH JANSSEN:

BEGIN QUOTE:

US-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT ON TARIFF-POLICY IN MARITIME SHIPPING. IF USSR DOES NOT STOP PRICE-DUMPING IN MARITIME SHIPPING, USG WILL INTRODUCE MORE STRINGENT MARITIME LEGISLATION TO KEEP THE USSR UNDER CONTROL. THESE WERE WORDS OF KARL

BAKKE, CHAIRMAN OF US FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION DURING HIS VISIT TO THE DUTCH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SHIPPING JANSSEN YESTERDAY. MR. BAKKE GAVE EXPLANATION OF US-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT ON TARIFF POLICY IN MARITIME SHIPPING REACHED LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO MR. BAKKE, US INTENTION WAS TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER USSR PREPARED TO AGREE TO MINIMUM TARIFFS AND IF RUSSIANS WOULD TAKE SERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROBLEM BY JOINING SHIPPING CONFERENCES. ACCORDING TO USSR, COUNTRY'S LOW TARIFFS REFLECT FACT THAT SERVICES RENDERED ARE NOT COMPARABLE TO THOSE OFFERED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES. MR. BAKKE COMMENTED THAT LENINGRAD NEGOTIATIONS REPRESENTED UTMOST US EFFORT TO PERSUADE USSR TO STRAIGHTEN OUT EXISTING TARIFF DISORDER. US HAS NO INTENTION TO WAIT FOR YEARS FOR A SOLUTION AND RUSSIANS WILL HAVE TO SHOW THEIR GOOD WILL DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS. MR. JANSSEN COMMENTED THAT FEAR EXISTED IN NETHERLANDS THAT US ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROBLEM WOULD WEAKEN, THEN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT AGREEMENT REACHED CAME LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE. BAKKE DENIED THAT THE US HAD WEAKENED ITS ATTITUDE AND SAID THAT RUSSIANS WERE BEING GIVEN A LAST CHANCE TO CHANGE THEIR STANDPOINT. MR. JANSSEN WAS SURPRISED THAT PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR NO WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE CONSULTED. HE DREW ATTENTION TO EXISTENCE OF SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. "IF WE DO NOT COOPERATE IN THE RIGHT WAY, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WILL BE PLAYED OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER."

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P R 231556Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8616

INFO RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 737

AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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MR. BAKKE'S COMMENT TO THIS WAS: " WE ARE IN A POWERFUL
POSITION TO DO THESE THINGS (CARRY OUT NEGOTIATIONS),
AND WE KNEW WE WERE DOING THIS IN LINE WITH THE POLICIES
OF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES." END QUOTE.

4. SAME ISSUE CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL (BEGIN FYI)
WHICH REFLECTS VIEWS OF JANSSEN AND NIEUWENHUIJSEN
(END FYI):

BEGIN QUOTE:
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH USSR REMAINS A PROBLEMS. THIS IS
ALSO CASE IN MARITIME SHIPPING. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE
THAT US IS GETTING FED UP WITH UNFAIR USSR COMPETITION
AND DUMPING TARIFFS, AND THAT THEY WILL FORCE USSR TO REACH
A TARIFF AGREEMENT. APART FROM QUESTION OF WHETHER US
IS DOING THIS IN TACTICALLY RIGHT WAY WITH RESPECT TO OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN FACED WITH SAME PROBLEMS FOR
YEARS, IF IS ABOUT TIME TO CHECK RUSSIAN TARIFF-DUMPING.
IN SOME SECTORS RUSSIANS ARE UNDERBIDDING DUTCH SHIPPING
COMPANIES BY 40 PERCENT. THE DANGER THAT USSR WILL DRIVE

TRADITIONAL MARITIME COUNTRIES FROM SEA IS INCREASING DAILY.
DURING PAST TEN YEARS, BOTH RUSSIAN MARITIME AND NAVY
FLEETS HAVE GROWN IMPRESSIVELY. IN ADDITION, NEW BUILDING
PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUOUSLY IN PROGRESS; ALSO IN OTHER
EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES. RUSSIAN STATE CHIPS CAN SAIL
CHEAPER BECAUSE TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC PARAMETERS ARE NOT
TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IS FACT
THAT USSR IS COLLECTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY.
THIS IS ALSO THE FINE PRINT BEHIND A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED
BELGIAN-RUSSIAN SHIPPING COMPANY. FORTUNATELY, SIMILAR
STEPS HAVE NOT YET BEEN TAKEN IN THE NETHERLANDS. IT IS,
HOWEVER, ABOUT TIME THAT MARITIME LEGISLATION BE INTRO-
DUCED PROVIDING FOR COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST USSR.
END QUOTE
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